

Subject **Old Ship June 2019**
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June 2019 Newsletter

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Worship

All June worship services will be in the Parish House Fellowship Hall, due to the work repairing the Meeting House steeple:

Sunday, June 2, 10:25am

This will be our annual New Members Sunday, formally welcoming and honoring all those who have signed the membership book since our last New Members Sunday a year ago. If you'd like to join and be welcomed this Sunday, please contact Rev. Ken Read-Brown (oldshipkrb@gmail.com; 781-635-2060).

Ken's sermon will be "Yes, All Are Welcome" - lifting up some of the essentials of our Unitarian Universalist faith, all the more important in these times of political division and distrust.

Following the service, our now annual Pride Day will be celebrated on the front lawn of the Parish House from 12-3:00: Games, Tie-dye, Snacks, and more!



Sunday, June 9, 10:25am

Ken's sermon will be "Touchstones." He writes: "During my sabbatical I spent some of my time compiling what I'm calling touchstone passages and quotes from the world's wisdom traditions, philosophy, and literature, both ancient and contemporary. I'll share some of what I discovered about the words and wisdom I return to over and over again, and invite you to reflect on your own touchstones."

At noon there will be a parish meeting to hear updates about the potential Parish House sale and about alternative plans for staying in our current Parish House.

Sunday, June 16, 10:25am

This will be our annual Flower Sunday, as we complete our year of "regular" worship. Though usually this service is held in our Meeting House, we will still celebrate with our UU Flower Communion ceremony in our Fellowship Hall. We are each invited to bring a flower to place in a shared bouquet, symbolizing the ways in which we each bring our unique gifts to our shared community.

Following the service we are invited to enjoy our annual potluck salad luncheon, which will then include famous Old Ship Strawberry Shortcake!

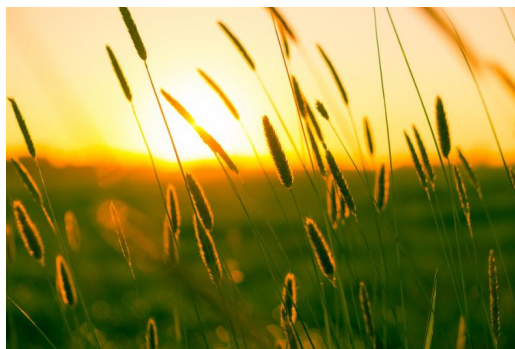
Sunday, June 23, 10am

We begin our summer worship services, mostly to be led by wonderful Old Ship members and friends! This first summer service will be led by Ken Read-Brown: "Speaking from the Silence" - reflections on worship in the manner of the Friends (Quakers)..

Summer services will be in our Fellowship Hall, and will begin at 10:00.

Summer Worship Services

Regular worship services ending in June means Summer Services will be begin!! Starting June 23, please join us each Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. to continue Old Ship worship through the summer months. We move our services over to the Parish House Fellowship Hall which allows us to meet in a wonderful, intimate setting with doors wide open and nature just pouring in. The topics for our services this summer are varied with both staff and congregants leading the way.



We begin June 23rd with Ken Read-Brown's annual Quaker service and end Sept. 1st with Chris Hossfeld's Music service. The Sunday services in between are as amazing as last summer: Elizabeth Torrey will lead her wonderfully moving poetry service, Catherine Mayes will introduce the Bodhisattva group and lead a labyrinth meditation, Ginny Perelson will speak on Ableism, the church youth will show you how to think out-of-the-box, and Rich Elliott and Karen Churchill want to throw in their two cents on a few Sundays as well. Summer Service dates with speakers will be announced shortly.

We still have one or two openings available if you would like to lead a service or just give a "sermon." Please contact Karen Churchill with any questions at xplasticfishx@yahoo.com. Looking forward to sharing these once in a lifetime experiences with you.

Musing

from the minister's desk

Now and then in our lives and in the lives of organizations and institutions, certainly including congregations, we find ourselves facing significant challenges or at a crossroads or in the midst of some measure of conflict... or even all three at the same time!

Well, it seems apparent that we find ourselves at such a moment at Old Ship. But also as in our personal lives, such moments are often rich with opportunity. I believe this is the case for us at Old Ship.

As most of you know the confluence of challenges we face include several years of deficit operating budgets, which clearly must not continue beyond the upcoming fiscal year; include the question of whether we can sell the Parish House and build across the street or if we will need to stay and find the resources to renovate; and include the future of our religious education program, with Beverly's retirement one year from now.

These are intertwining challenges, and it is quite clear that we hold varied and often strong opinions as to how best to meet these challenges - with the potential for conflict among us.

Which means we have a choice as to how to move forward: We can allow our varied opinions about our finances, the buildings, and religious education staffing to divide us - or we can step back and remind ourselves of the common ground we share: our common interests in financial stability, buildings that suit our needs, and programs staffed to sustain our ministries rooted in our Unitarian Universalist principles and values. We can do this with open minds as to how our shared interests can be met, perhaps in creative ways that no one of us alone might have considered, but that will arise in the course of engaged, good faith conversation.

We can of course do this. For we are fortunate, blessed really (this is certainly how I feel), to have a wealth of good-hearted, smart, dedicated leaders and members, everyone committed to live out our Old Ship Covenant as best we can, sometimes (of course) imperfectly, but never for lack of striving, even or especially in the midst of disagreement and hard conversation.

As a reminder, here is our Covenant:

As a congregation committed to Unitarian Universalist Principles, we join with one another in the spirit of respect, reverence, humility, and love:

To seek the truth freely,

To nurture spiritual growth and ethical commitment,

To care for one another,

And, seeking justice, peace, and ecological sustainability, to serve life.

Peace and blessings,

--Ken

oldshipkrib@gmail.com

cell: 781-635-2060

My Parish House office hours are ordinarily Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday mornings from about 10:00 - 2:00 and by appointment. Monday is my day off, and Thursday my sermon writing day. My primary phone contact is through the Parish House office - 781-749-1679. The office answering machine includes my cell phone if you need to reach me quickly - since when I am not in the office I am either working in my study at home, or making visits or attending meetings elsewhere. I can also be reached via email, oldshipkrib@gmail.com.

--Ken

R.E. Notes - Retirement Announcement

Last weekend I officiated a wedding... the groom is a thirty two year old man... who lives in New York City and works for a major government organization... He wanted to be married by his DRE... When I started working at Unity Church, he was eight years old...

His father told me, late into the reception, that in the wedding negotiations with his fiancé, it was the only thing he'd insisted on... I stopped working for Unity church 11 years ago. The thing about DREs is this: They love their church kids and the kids know it.

Faith formation and religious education is not teaching about Michael Servetus being burned at the stake, or knowing about the 95 Theses of Martin Luther. It never was. It's about love... and providing a warm safe spiritual home.



.....
When I came to Old Ship, I grew to love a whole new group of kids... I won't tell you stories about them, because they've entrusted me, and I hold that trust very dear...

I will say that I have written countless letters of referral: for summer jobs, internships, National Honor Society, scholarships... And I've supervised and documented hours and hours of community service. I'll also say that dozens of young Unitarian Universalists have my cell phone number... and have used it... at all hours of the day and night... with no concern about day of the week.

My head and my heart are filled with children... and Youth... and young adults... And I'm getting old. At the end of next year, I will retire.

Next year will make 25 years in a career that most folks only do for 3 to 5 years.

I am satisfied that I have shared with you all that I have that is useful, and that I kept nothing back.

I've devoted most of my working years to the future; the future of church life... and the future of Unitarian Universalism... I hope it helped. Church life is becoming harder and harder for families to squeeze in, in these two-career, over-scheduled, frazzled times.

But families need love and support now more than ever... I hope Old Ship always envisions itself as the place where they will find it.

With great love...

Beverly Tricco

Director of Religious Education

Note from Chris Hossfeld, Music Director

We are nearing the end of our year - awaiting our summer adventures - and what a year it has been! On our final three Sundays in June, I'd like to invite all who are interested to give the choir a try. All you need to do is show up on a Sunday (June 2, 9, or 16) at 9:15 am. I will provide the music and then we will learn it together. If you've ever had an inkling that singing in the choir would be fun, now is your opportunity. All are welcome!



Since Beverly has announced her retirement at the end of next year, I'd like to take a moment to celebrate the Religious Education program and her role in leading it.

The vibrancy that has been carefully fostered and cultivated within the R.E. community is apparent in how they support each other, how they show up for the Old Ship community, and in the eloquence of its youth, who teach me so much whenever I have the opportunity to work with them. This vibrancy enriches the Old Ship community in uncountable ways, inspires my work in the community, and gives me hope that the world can be changed - by us and by those we send forth into it.

I wish you all a beautiful summer!

Chris

Christopher Hossfeld

Director of Music

musicdirector@oldshipchurch.org

Membership

Thinking of becoming a new member?

On Sunday, June 2, is New Members' Sunday, when we will be formally welcoming those people who have signed the Membership book this year.

If you enjoy the Old Ship community and find yourself in harmony with the UU principles of freedom and reason in religion you may be considering membership. We would love to warmly welcome you as a new member this Sunday. We will have the membership book available to sign during the service. Please contact Ken Read-Brown (oldshipkreb@gmail.com) for more information.



New Member Profile

Keely Jordan - up close and personal

If you are looking for a fair damsel, who displays passion as well as strength of character, look no further than Keely Jordan, our newest member. She attended Old Ship at an early age. Keely says, "My parents were married in Old Ship, and when I was five, they wanted me to go to a church that would give me the ability to choose my beliefs rather than having them forced upon me. We went to Old Ship; I went across the street with the other kids and the rest is history."

Keely is active in the Youth Group, helps with fundraisers, and serves as the youth representative on the Nominating Committee. She also teaches Chalice Children. Memorable moments at Old Ship include participating in the fire-jumping ceremony, singing in the choir, and being involved with the "Day of the Dead" festivities, when everyone made her cupcakes and sang happy birthday to her. She says, "I love the community and became a member to be a bigger part of it."

Keely is active in her school, being involved with the Gay-Straight-Alliance, Student Council, Debate Team, Mock Trial, and Quiz Bowl team. She is also the managing editor of the school paper and is running for class president.

Is your head spinning while reading all that is on Keely's plate? Here is more. She loves to draw, write, play piano, and write songs. In addition, she enjoys eating sushi while humming her favorite song, "Miss Atomic Bomb."

Keely's future plans at Old Ship include becoming more involved in this church. She comments, "It's my second home, and I love all the people here."

Upcoming Profile: We are very pleased that Jayden Lee also joined Old Ship recently. Watch for her profile in a fall newsletter.

Pride Day at Old Ship

Sunday, June 2 Noon - 3

**On our beautiful front lawn at
107 Main Street, Hingham
ALL are we come!
For: Games, Tie-dye
Snacks and more!**



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Educating Hearts and Minds: Life Learning Programs



Labyrinth Walk in Fellowship Hall

"Pilgrims All"

"Pilgrims," as walkers of labyrinths were called in medieval times, walked the Old Ship

Labyrinth, which is in residence on the floor of Fellowship Hall, were enveloped in an ocean of sound waves on Friday night, May 10th. Players of four large crystal bowls, positioned at the four corners of the hall were also chanting along with drummers. Small instruments such as rattles, small bells and finger cymbals available to walkers, served as accent sounds in the symphony of vibrations. The event was led by Santjes Oomen-Lochtefeld, artist, practitioner of the healing arts, teacher, and by Peter Lochtefeld, artisan, drummer and co-ritual maker with Santjes. Labyrinth Committee members, Karen Churchill, chair, Santjes, Janice McPhillips and Mary Thomas facilitated the event.



The labyrinth is based on the design of the spiral, a sacred symbol since antiquity and found throughout time, worldwide and in many faith traditions. It serves as a spiritual tool for a walking meditation, prayer and centering. Harmony is felt by walking through its entry, where an intent is set; its center, where reconnecting with the intent is made and finally, returning to the starting point to realize insights gained.

At the end of the two hour event, an experienced meditator commented, "it was the most beautiful meditation setting in my lifetime." Such an opportunity will once again be offered in the early fall. Stay tuned.

For those interested in the Labyrinth Committee, e-mail Karen Churchill at xplasticfishx@yahoo.com.

submitted by Mary Thomas

The Life Learning Committee invites and welcomes your suggestions for classes, forums, and workshops for the coming year. We are planning the schedule this month, so contact any member of the committee soon with your ideas:

Ken Read-Brown (oldshipkrb@gmail.com)
 Beverly Tricco (dre@oldshipchurch.org)
 Ralph Brown (ralph.e.brown@gmail.com)
 Rich Elliott (richelliott56@gmail.com)
 Claire Petrie (cdpetrie@aol.com)
 Elizabeth Torrey (elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com)

Ongoing groups and gatherings....

[Link here](#) to the page on our web site that includes descriptions of all these groups: from opportunities to meditate and study spiritual texts ancient and modern as described above, to the Men's Breakfast, Women's Breakfast, Book Group, Sewing Group, and the monthly Ceilidh song circle.

Nurturing Community

Joys and Sorrows

We extend deep sympathy to Tom Willson and his family. Tom's sister, Martha Kelly, died recently at age 69. She lived in Newark, NY, in the Finger Lakes area of upstate New York. She dedicated her life to her four children, twelve grandchildren, and forty years as a nurse for the severely disabled patients of New York State's mental health system. Always a smile and a kind word, always caring and willing to give of herself. Services have been held.

We extend continued healing thoughts to 5-year-old Maddie Benak, as she recovers, now at home, from major abdominal



surgery. Maddie's parents, Steve and Heather, and her baby sister, Amelia, are in our thoughts and prayers

We send continued healing thought to Judi Flaherty, who is at home recovering from recent knee replacement surgery.

Congratulations to Cai Vail and Jeremy Harmon on the recent birth of a baby girl, Zaida. We wish them (including big brother Silas) all the best, and we look forward to meeting Zaida.

Committee on Ministry

The Committee on Ministry, with a rotating membership appointed by our Board of Trustees, meets monthly with our minister, Ken Read-Brown, to reflect on the five ministries of Old Ship and sometimes to discuss particular current concerns or issues with the life of our congregation.

Input, questions, concerns, ideas from Old Ship members and friends is of course always welcome. Feel free to contact Ken or any of the members of the committee: Santjes Oomen-Lochtefeld, Nigel Harvey, Eva Marx, Rob Baynes, Cory Fitz-Marquez, and John Sneath.

May Breakfast and Plant Sale thank-yous!

Many thanks to all of you, named and unnamed. This year's May Breakfast and Plant Sale could not have happened without you.

Maybe you are Gail Slater, Dianne Walcott, or Fan Leonard, all of whom transformed the Fellowship Hall on Friday and then also worked on Saturday.

Maybe you are Janice McPhillips and Brenda Black who, along with a number of other women, set up the colorful plant tables.

Maybe you are part of the "Fiber Funship" group, all of whom donated their time and talents to the crafts table.

Maybe you are Alicia Harkness and Janet Asnes, who did an amazing job serving breakfast to about 120 diners.

Maybe you are Connie Gorfinkle, who wrote an eye-catching article about May Breakfast for "The Hingham Journal."

Maybe you are Karen Churchill, who, as dining-room coordinator, organized the wait staff, while keeping them laughing.

Maybe you helped with the plant sale, worked as a waiter/waitress in the dining hall or cooked in the kitchen.

Maybe you are Nina Wellford who was in charge of the finances.

Maybe you came to May Breakfast and enjoyed a delicious meal, and perhaps, bought some plants or crafts.

Maybe you know that May Breakfast, thanks to the efforts of so many of you, was a total success.

Gratefully,
Ivy Butterworth

First Parish, Old Ship Church, 107 Main Street, Hingham, MA 02043

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